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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
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PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary

CERTIFIED LETTER - RETURN RECEIPT REQUIRED

July 22, 1999

Steven Rae, Group Leader
Los Alamos National Laboratory
MS-K497
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

**RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge Well Development Water and Purge Water
From the R-31 Well, (WQ&H:99-0165)**

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has received your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated May 18, 1999, for the discharge of 25,000 gallons per day for up to 10 days from your proposed well drilling in accordance with Section 1201 of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The well will be located in Mortandad Canyon Technical Area (TA) 5 in Los Alamos County. The application satisfies the requirements of Section 1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your NOI, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described. A discharge plan will not be required if the discharge conforms to the numerical ground water standards in WQCC Regulation 3103 and does not contain any toxic pollutants as defined in WQCC Regulation 1101.TT.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows:

Up to 25,000 gallons of purge and well development water per day for 10 days will be containerized and analyzed and the results will be submitted to NMED prior to any discharge. If purge and well development water concentrations exceed WQCC Regulation 3103 standards, LANL will submit an addendum to NMED with any changes to the NOI for further review of the proposed discharge. If purge and well development water concentrations are below WQCC Regulation 3103 Standards and the water does not contain any toxic pollutants as defined in WQCC Regulation 1101.TT, the containerized purge water may be discharged onto a land application area as designated in the NOI dated May 18, 1999.



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All purge water discharged onto the ground shall not be allowed to pond or enter any surface water course. Purge and well development water may only be discharged onto areas with no known contamination.

Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge at this time, you are not relieved of liability should your operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters. Further, this decision by NMED does not relieve you of your responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements, plumbing codes and nuisance ordinances.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, the character, or location of your discharge so that it will not be as described, or if observation or monitoring shows that the discharge is not as described, you must file a new request for exemption with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (GWPPS).

If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Bustamante of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section staff at 827-0166 or Dale Doremus, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:PAB/pab

xc: Benito Garcia, District Manager, NMED District II
Barbara Hoditschek, SWQB
John Keiling, HRMB
Ralph Ford-Schmidt, DOE-OB
NOI File